Embassy of the United States of America



ul. Samoilova 21 1000 Skopje, Macedonia Tel: +389-2-310 2000

Fax: +389-2-310-2299

Email: consularskopje@state.gov

United States Embassy Skopje Security Message for U.S. citizens: Demonstrations in Skopje April 14, 2016

The U.S. Embassy in Skopje informs U.S. citizens that the civic movement "Protestiram" has announced a series of protests throughout central Skopje. Protests are currently scheduled at18:00 today, April 14, and at 18:00 on April 15, beginning at the Parliament building and moving toward the Government building, Presidential People's Office on Dimitrije Cupovski Street, and VMRO-DPMNE party headquarters. More than 8000 participants are expected.

Yesterday, April 13, more than 2500 protesters gathered, and media reported incidents of property destruction, arrests, and injuries. U.S. citizens should expect a sizeable police presence in Skopje, frequent street closures, and traffic disruptions. Smaller demonstrations may spontaneously occur in other cities in Macedonia.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Macedonia Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at tel: (02) 310-2000 within Macedonia, or (+389) (2) 310-2000 internationally,

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (02) 310-2000.

- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.